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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

--1. [amended] A teleconferencing robot, for enabling a remote conferee to project a sense of presence into a group meeting, the teleconferencing robot comprising:
a base;
a video monitor movably mounted to the base for receiving and displaying an image of the remote conferee;
a video camera movably mounted on the base;
control means mounted on the base for moving the video monitor and video camera in response to an input control signal; and
wherein said video monitor and video camera move in response to said input control signal to enable [a] the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting.--

REMARKS

Additional sheets containing a clean copy of the amended claims, namely claim 1, is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. It is noted that the sole amendment to claim 1 relates to replacing the term "a remote conferee" with --the remote conferee-- as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner had objected to the abstract on the basis that the abstract must be on a separate sheet. An amended abstract on a single sheet is enclosed to overcome the Examiner's objections.

The previous Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d, 9, 10, 11, 11a, 11b, 12, 13, 14a, 14b and 14c have been replaced with present Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d, 9, 10, 11, 11a, 11b, 12, 13, 14a, 14b and 14c. No amendments have been made to the Figures. Rather, the Figures have been reformatted such that the reference numerals are of larger print and at least 1/8" in size in order

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to address the Draftsperson's objections. It is respectfully submitted that the present drawings overcome the Draftsperson's objections. It is also noted that the present drawings are based on the original drawings which were permitted under the International Patent Cooperation Treaty. Nevertheless, should the Draftsperson maintain the objection to the drawings, further formal drawings can be prepared upon allowance of the case.

The Examiner's indication that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims is acknowledged with thanks. With respect to the Examiner's objection to the remaining claims, and in particular the Examiner's objection to claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 and 13 as being anticipated in view of U.S. Patent 5,808,663 to Okaya, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection at least for the following reasons.

The present invention as recited by the present claims relates to a teleconferencing robot for enabling a remote conferee to project "*a sense of presence into a group meeting*". The teleconferencing robot comprises a base, a *video monitor moveably mounted to the base for receiving and displaying an image of the remote conferee* and a video camera moveably mounted to the base. The present invention as defined by claim 1 also comprises "*a control means mounted to the base for moving the video monitor and video camera in response to an input control signal*". Claim 1 also recites that the "*video monitor and video camera move in response to said input control signal to enable the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting*".

The advantages of a teleconferencing robot as recited by the present claims is recited in the disclosure, such as at disclosure pages 2 and 3. For example, reference is respectfully made to disclosure page 2, line 15 which states as follows:

"To transform the television into a more dynamic, interactive device a substantially life-sized image of a remote conferee's face is displayed on a television or video monitor and the television or video monitor is controlled to swivel left or right to create the impression that the remote conferee is turning his or her head to look at a person speaking." [emphasis added]

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In addition, for the Examiner's convenience, the following passage appearing at disclosure page 3, lines 10 to 18 is reproduced below:

"The remote conferee can remotely control the teleconferencing robot to look left or right. Optionally, a sound location system built into the teleconferencing robot can be used to determine where the speaking person is positioned relative to the teleconferencing robot, and can be used to generate a control signal to automatically swivel the video monitor head left or right so that the remote conferee appears to be turning to look at the person speaking. This allows the remote conferee to concentrate on the social interaction, rather than on controlling the movement of the teleconferencing robot." [emphasis added]

Accordingly, the present invention as recited in claim 1 and disclosed in the disclosure relates to a teleconferencing robot where the video monitor is movably mounted to the base, and further, comprises a control means for moving the video monitor and video camera in response to an input control signal. The video monitor and video camera move in response to the input control signal to enable the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art references, either singly or in combination, teach, suggest or disclose these features. With respect to Okaya, it is respectfully submitted that this reference does not teach, suggest or disclose a control means which moves the video monitor in response to the input control signals. Moreover, Okaya does not teach, suggest or disclose that the monitor is moved in response to input control signals to enable the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting. At best, Okaya discloses "a multimedia carousel 10 including a base and media unit connected to the base such that it is freely rotatable about a vertical axis A through the center of the media unit 14 and the base 12 as indicated by an arrow B. Each of four outwardly facing sides of the media unit 14, only two of which are shown in FIG. 1, includes a display panel 16, a camera 18 and a microphone 20" [see Okaya column 2, lines 51 to 56]. However, Okaya fails to teach, suggest or disclose any means for rotating the base 12 and media unit 14. In other words, Okaya does not teach, suggest or disclose any type of motor control means or device to move the media unit 14 or the base 12. Rather, Okaya teaches that the base 12 is "freely rotatable about a vertical axis A" suggesting that it is to be rotated by hand.

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Accordingly, Okaya does not disclose "control means mounted to the base for moving the video monitor" as recited in present claim 1. Furthermore, Okaya does not teach, suggest or disclose that the video monitor is moved in "response to input control signals" in order to "enable the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting".

At best, Okaya discloses that video signals received at the video input terminal 202 from a computer executing a multimedia application or a video conferencing system are processed by an integrated graphics processor 216 in accordance with video control signals from the display control panels 22 shown in FIG. 1 before being provided to the display panels 16 for display thereon [see column 3, lines 32 to 38 of Okaya]. However, the video control signals as shown in FIG. 1 of Okaya only relate to the quality of the video signal and do not relate to movement of the video display panel 16. Moreover, these video control signals are generated by the proximate video conferees entering video control signals on the display control panels 22 and do not relate to the remote conferee. Rather, these control signal appear to simply be the standard control signals, presumably as contrast, brightness, etc. to adjust the video signals received by the integrated graphics processor 216 and projected on the display panel 16.

Reference is also respectfully made to Okaya at column 3, lines 65 to column 4, line 7 which was also referred to by the Examiner. This passage appears to disclose that at any time during the discussion or presentation, the media unit 14 may be rotated relative to the base 12 to enable participants to get a better view of what is being presented on the display panel 16 or to ensure that a particular participant is within the line of sight of one of the cameras 18. As Okaya does not disclose any control means for rotating the media unit relative to the base 12, it appears that this rotation about the "freely rotatable" vertical axis A, is accomplished by the proximate conferees rotating the base 12 by hand in order to enable participants to get a better view of what is being presented on the display panel 16. In other words, this passage from Okaya fails to disclose a control means mounted on the base for moving the video monitor, and, fails to disclose that this movement occurs in response to an input control signal to enable the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting.

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Accordingly, at least for these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Okaya fails to teach, suggest or disclose the features as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 recites patentably distinguishable subject matter in view of the Okaya reference.

As the remaining claims are directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims recite patentably distinguishable subject matter at least for the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1. In addition, several of the dependent claims recite features of the invention which are not disclosed by the prior art.

For instance, claim 6 recites that the input control signal is derived from a sound source detection means such that the control means is adapted to drive the video monitor in response to the control signal, to a position substantially facing the detected direction, such that the video monitor will project an image of the remote conferee which turns to face the speaker, thereby enabling the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting. It is respectfully submitted that at least for the above reasons, the Okaya reference fails to teach, suggest or disclose movement of the video monitor in response to control signals as recited in claim 6, and, claim 6 recites patentably distinguishable subject matter for this reason also.

Furthermore, claim 13 recites that the "input control signal is provided by the remote teleconferencing unit" indicating that the movement of the video monitor is controlled by the remote conferee, thereby further assisting the remote conferee to project the sense of presence into the group meeting. This is not taught, suggested or disclosed by Okaya. Accordingly, claim 13 recites patentably distinguishable subject matter in view of Okaya for this reason also.

Similarly, claim 20 recites that the input control signal is derived from a remote signal generated by the remote conferee, which also permits the remote conferee to project a sense of presence into the group meeting by moving the video monitor in response to the input control signals. Accordingly, claim 20 recites patentably distinguishable subject matter in view of Okaya for this reason also generated by the remote conferee.

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Accordingly, at least for the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims define patentably distinguishable subject matter in view of the prior art references. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to all of the present claims and to permit the application to proceed to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner is of the view that this application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 1-416-961-5000 ext. 313 so that an interview or telephone conference may be arranged to expedite allowance of this case.

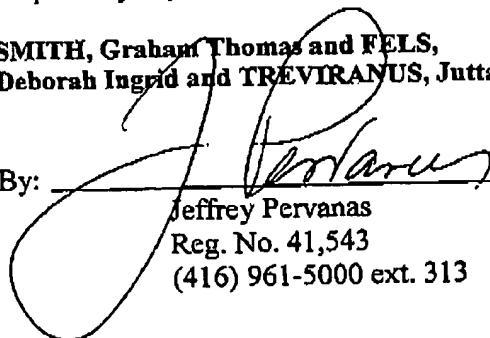
It is hereby petitioned under 37 CFR 1-1336 that the response term of this application be extended, if necessary, to a date which would include the filing date of the present amendment and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary extension fee to deposit account no. 18-1350, under an order number corresponding to attorney docket number P150299.

Favourable consideration and disposition is respectfully requested.

Respectfully requested

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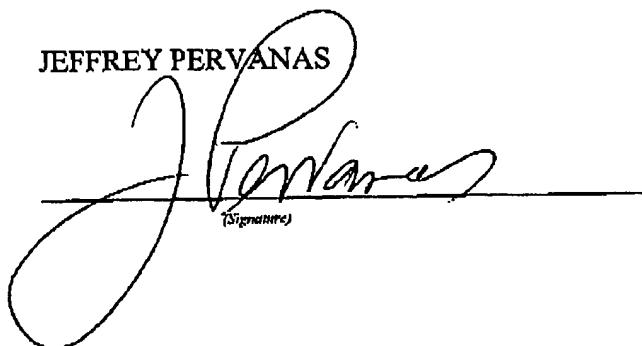
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Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5,
6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b,
8c, 8d, 9, 10, 11, 11a, 11b, 12,
13, 14a, 14b and 14c

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 308-6306 on August 29, 2002.

JEFFREY PERVANAS



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Pervanas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, the word "(Signature)" is written in a smaller, printed font.